

## LENT 2027: The Wrong Kind of Messiah

Sun 07-Feb-27 Alleluia Sunday

Mark 9:2–9 THE MESSIAH WITH THE WRONG MOUNTAIN

People expected the Messiah to appear in Zion, the holy centre. Instead Jesus is revealed on a remote mountain in Galilee, witnessed only by three disciples, and the vision must be kept secret. The Messiah does not establish himself publicly in the place everyone expected. His glory appears briefly and quietly, and then he leads the disciples back down into ordinary life.

Sun 14-Feb-27 Lent 1

Mark 1:9–15 THE MESSIAH WITH THE WRONG START

Messianic movements normally begin by gathering supporters or announcing a programme. Jesus begins with baptism, wilderness, temptation, and obscurity. Instead of claiming power, he enters the human struggle and then quietly proclaims that the kingdom of God has drawn near.

Sun 21-Feb-27 Lent 2

Mark 8:31–38 THE MESSIAH WITH THE WRONG ROAD

Peter recognises Jesus as the Messiah, but immediately misunderstands what that means. Jesus explains that the Son of Man must suffer, be rejected, and be killed. Messiahship does not lead to triumph but to the cross, and anyone who follows him must take the same road.

Sun 28-Feb-27 Lent 3

John 2:13–2 THE MESSIAH WITH THE WRONG ENEMIES

Many expected the Messiah to challenge foreign rulers and restore national freedom. Instead Jesus confronts the temple system itself. Driving out the traders, he symbolically replaces the temple with his own body. The conflict is not with Rome first of all, but with the heart of religious life.

Sun 07-Mar-27 Mothering Sunday

John 3:14–21 THE MESSIAH WITH THE WRONG MISSION

Many expected the Messiah to come for the nation, to vindicate Israel and defeat its enemies. Instead Jesus speaks about the world. “God so loved the world...” The Son is lifted up not for one people but for all people. The Messiah’s mission is wider than national hope; it is the rescue of the whole world. On Mothering Sunday, we are reassured once again that the Father who sends him is the one from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

Sun 14-Mar-27 Passion Sunday

John 12:20–33 THE MESSIAH WITH THE WRONG GLORY

When Greeks come asking to see Jesus, it looks like the moment everyone has been waiting for: the nations are arriving, the Messiah’s influence is spreading, and the hour of triumph should finally have come. But this Messiah’s glory will be revealed not in rising above the world but in giving his life within it. And on APCM Sunday, as we look back over the year, this reminds us that the glory of Christ’s work often begins like the grain of wheat — hidden in the ground before the harvest appears.